

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

There are two different types of household hazardous waste collection days sponsored by the Southern Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

Paint and Oil Collections

Acceptable materials: Used motor oil, oil based paint, oil based stain, and oil paint related products (such as paint remover and stripper). Latex paint and empty paint cans are not accepted. Dried latex paint can be thrown in the trash.

Locations: Rotate between three towns: Great Barrington, Lenox, and Otis.

Dates and Times: Call CET at 1-800-238-1221. These collections occur six to nine times throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

Comprehensive Collections

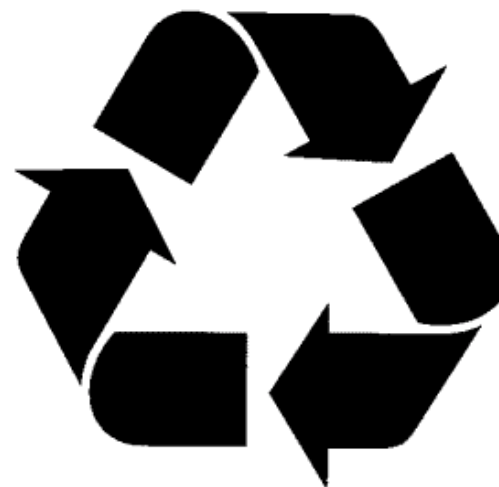
Acceptable materials include: Oil Based Paints, Stains, Varnishes, Wood Preservatives, Paint Strippers/Thinners, Solvent Adhesives, Lighter Fluid, Fuels/ Gasoline/Kerosene, Antifreeze, Degreasers, Driveway Sealer, Brake Fluid/ Carburetor Cleaner, Transmission Fluid, Car Wax, Polishes, Roofing Tar, Pool Chemicals, Poisons, Insecticides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Weed Killers, Moth Balls, Flea Control Products, Rubber Cement, Airplane Glue, Fiberglass Resins, Photo Chemicals, Chemistry Sets, Floor & Metal Polish, Oven Cleaner, Drain and Toilet Cleaner, Spot Remover, Rug & Upholstery Cleaner, Hobby/Artist Supplies, Mercury Thermometers, Thermostats, Button Batteries, Re-chargeable Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs. Televisions and computers may be accepted for a fee.

Locations: Rotate between three towns: Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and Lee

Dates and Times: Call CET at 1-800-238-1221. These collections occur two to three times throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

Additional items may be accepted at future collections. Call a steering committee member (see the inside front cover), CET at 1-800-238-1221 or visit <http://www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm#collections> for an updated list of acceptable materials and a current schedule of collections.

How to
reduce, reuse, and recycle
common household
items, and dispose of
household hazardous
materials.



For towns in the **Southern Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program**
(Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee,
Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New
Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge,
Tyringham and West Stockbridge)

Dear Resident,

Have you ever wondered how to get rid of an old television in a way that's safe for the environment? Do you have an old mercury thermometer that you don't know how to dispose of safely? Does your basement or garage have a box full of chemicals that you aren't sure what to do with?

This guide contains information about proper disposal and recycling of common household items that shouldn't be thrown in the trash. Some of the items in this guide are **hazardous waste**. Hazardous waste is waste that can catch fire, react, or explode, or that is toxic or corrosive. If you throw hazardous waste in the trash, it can be dangerous for the workers who pick up your trash or work at your transfer station. Hazardous chemicals can end up in our water or air when trash is incinerated or if a landfill leaks. If you pour hazardous waste down the drain, it can contaminate your septic system, well, or the wastewater treatment plant.

Other items discussed in this guide aren't hazardous, but still shouldn't be thrown out. Many can be recycled, and have a second life rather than ending up in a landfill or incinerator.

Some items can be brought to your transfer station, while others need to be brought to a regional household hazardous waste (HHW) collection. Still others are accepted by area businesses.

For some toxic chemicals and products, there are alternatives that are safer for you and the environment. This guide mentions some of those alternatives, and gives ideas for obtaining further information.

This guide was printed by the South Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative. It was prepared in 2005 by the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) with funding from USDA Rural Development. The information in this booklet was the best available in 2005. Please call businesses, town halls, and other locations to confirm hours and fees.

South Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative Steering Committee:

Don Chester (Great Barrington) 413-528-0867
Greg Federspiel (Lenox) 413-637-5500
Peter Kolodziej (Tri Town Health) 413-243-5540
David Steindler (Sheffield) 413-229-2628
Mark Webber (West Stockbridge) 413-232-0319

For more information on your town's transfer station, including hours of operation, fees, and necessary permits, contact your town hall.

Alford	528-4526
Becket	623-8934
Egremont	528-0182
Great Barrington	528-3140
Monterey	528-1443
Mt. Washington	528-2839
New Marlborough	229-8116
Otis	269-0101
Sheffield	229-7000
Stockbridge	298-4714
Tyringham	243-1749
West Stockbridge	232-0302

The following towns do not have transfer stations:

Lee
Lenox
Richmond

For more information about this booklet, or about regional household hazardous waste collection days for your community:

- 1.) Contact one of the steering committee members listed on the inside of the front cover.
- 2.) Call CET at 1-800-238-1221
- 3.) Visit CET's website at <http://www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm#collections>



The Center for Ecological Technology (CET)SM, a non-profit community based environmental organization, demonstrates and promotes practical, affordable solutions to the environmental challenges encountered in our daily activities, especially in the areas of waste, energy and resource conservation.

OVEN CLEANERS:

- Mix three tablespoons of washing soda with one quart of warm water.
- Place liners in oven to catch drips during baking.
- Sprinkle salt on spills while the spill is warm and then scrub.
- Clean spills using steel wool and baking soda.

OUTDOOR PESTICIDES:

- Plant varieties that are pest and disease resistant.
- Physically remove some pests, like Japanese beetles, cabbage moth worms, and tent caterpillars.
- Promote plant health by testing for pH and nutrient levels in soil. Water, prune, use compost and mulch properly.

RAT POISON:

- Put a screen over drains.
- Use mechanical snap mouse and rat traps.

RUG DEODORIZER:

- Deodorize dry carpets by sprinkling liberally with baking soda. Wait at least 15 minutes and vacuum. Repeat if necessary.

SCOURING POWDER:

- Dip a damp cloth in baking soda and rub.
- Use steel wool.

SILVER POLISH:

- Boil 2 to 3 inches of water in a shallow pan with 1 teaspoon of salt, 1 teaspoon of baking soda, and a sheet of aluminum foil. Totally submerge silver and boil for 2 to 3 more minutes. Wipe away tarnish. Repeat if necessary. (Do not use this method on antique silver).
- Use nonabrasive toothpaste.

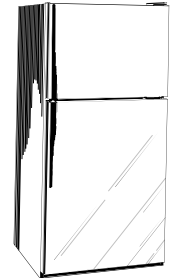
SNAIL & SLUG BAIT:

- Place a shallow pan with beer in the infested area. Slugs are attracted to the smell, and drown in the beer. To be effective, the beer must be changed every day or two.
- Overturn clay pots; snails take shelter in them during sunny days and thus can be collected and removed.

Appliances

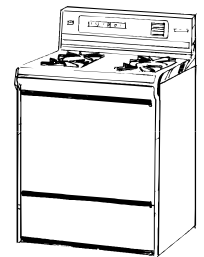
Appliances that contain CFCs (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers):

- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) damage the ozone layer when they are released into the environment. Special care must be taken in removing them from appliances.
- **Sayers Auto Wrecking** (443-1635) in Lanesborough accepts appliances that contain CFCs.
- **Henry's Electric** (413-243-0690) in Lee will remove CFCs (minimum \$20 fee). Once the CFCs have been removed, the appliance can be recycled as scrap metal.
- **Sears** in Great Barrington will remove CFCs (\$50 fee), or will accept an old appliance for a fee with purchase of a new appliance.
- **Aburco Carriers** (413-822-2249) will remove and dispose of appliances for a fee.
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations (fee may apply):** Becket, Monterey, Sheffield (with CFC removal tag)



Appliances that do not contain CFCs (Microwaves, Washing Machines, Stoves, Dryers, etc.):

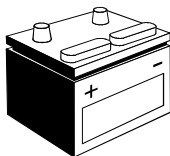
- These appliances can be recycled as scrap metal.
- **Perlman & Sons** (54 South Merriam St., Pittsfield, 442-7127) accepts appliances without CFCs.
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations (fee may apply):** Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough, Otis, Sheffield (no fee), Stockbridge, West Stockbridge.



Automotive Products

Car Batteries

- **Formel Motor Company** (21 Van Deusenville Road, Great Barrington, 528-9424) accepts car batteries free of charge. Please call to confirm.
- **Perlman & Sons** (54 South Merriam St., Pittsfield, 442-7127) accepts car batteries, and pays \$.01/lb. Please call to confirm.
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations: Monterey**



Tires

- Most tire dealerships recycle your old tires when you purchase new ones. Taking advantage of that service is the easiest way to dispose of old tires.
- Many tire dealerships and some garages will accept old tires for a fee, even if you aren't purchasing new tires.
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations (fee may apply): Becket, Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough, Otis, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge.**



Motor Oil

- DO NOT mix with gasoline, antifreeze, or cleaning solvents, or the motor oil may not be recyclable.
- By law, any place that sells motor oil in Massachusetts is required to accept it back for recycling. Most places require a receipt, so be sure to save it.
- Some area businesses that change oil will accept small amounts of used motor oil for recycling. Check with your local garage or **Jiffy Lube**.
- Bring used motor oil to a regional paint and oil collection (see page 11).
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations: Great Barrington, Monterey, Otis, Stockbridge.**



Other automotive fluids (antifreeze, transmission fluid, etc.):

- DO NOT mix with oil, gasoline, or any other chemicals, or the fluid may not be recyclable.
- Some **Jiffy Lubes** will accept small amounts of car fluids for recycling.
- Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (see page 11).

DEODORIZERS & AIR FRESHENERS:

- Open windows or use exhaust fans.
- A small dish of vinegar can get rid of kitchen odors.
- An open box of baking soda placed in the refrigerator reduces odors.
- Fresh cut flowers or dried flower petals and spices can add scent to a room; boiling potpourri or cinnamon and cloves in water will also produce a nice scent.

DETERGENTS (LAUNDRY & DISHWASHING):

- Replace detergents with soaps that are relatively “non-toxic” and “biodegradable”. To wash out residues from detergents, pre-wash in washing soda*.

DRAIN OPENERS:

- To prevent clogs, put 1/2 cup baking soda and 1/2 cup vinegar down drain. Wait 15 minutes, then pour boiling water down the drain.
- Use plumbers helper (plunger) or a plumber's snake.

FLEA & TICK PRODUCTS:

- Put brewer's yeast or garlic in your pet's food.
- Sprinkle fennel, rue, rosemary, or eucalyptus seeds and leaves around the area where animal sleeps.

FLOOR CLEANERS:

- Use soap and water.
- Use washing soda and water.
- Use white vinegar and water.

FURNITURE POLISH:

- Mix 1 teaspoon of lemon juice in 1 pint of mineral or vegetable oil.

ALL PURPOSE CLEANSERS:

- Mix 1/4 cup vinegar in 1 quart water, add lemon juice for scent. Put mixture in a spray bottle. Label the bottle.
- Mix three tablespoons washing soda in one quart of warm water.
- Use baking soda with a small amount of water.

GLASS AND WINDOW CLEANERS:

- Use cornstarch and water.
- Mix one-half cup of vinegar and one quart warm water; wipe with newspapers.
- Use lemon juice and dry with a soft cloth.

MOTH BALLS:

- Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint, or white peppercorns.

**Washing soda – crystalline sodium carbonate*

Pesticides/Herbicides

- Pesticides include weed killers, insect killers, insect repellent, flea and tick repellents and collars, and rodent killers. Pesticides have been linked to cancers and development problems. Pesticides can also harm songbirds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.
 - For more information on having less toxic lawns and gardens, contact CET at 1-800-238-1221.
 - Pesticides are hazardous waste and should never be thrown out in the trash or flushed down the toilet.
 - Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (see page 11).
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Safer Alternatives for Toxic Products

The following is a list of safer substitutes for some household toxics. Generally these products can be purchased in any grocery store.

ANT CONTROL:

- Sprinkle cream of tartar in front of the ant's path. (Ants will not cross over it).
- Caulk and seal openings in walls.
- Clean up spills
- Store food in airtight containers.

BUG SPRAY:

- Place screens on windows and doors. Cover baby carriages and playpens with mosquito netting.
- Brewer's yeast tablets taken daily give the skin a scent that mosquitoes seem to avoid.

CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS:

- Use compost.

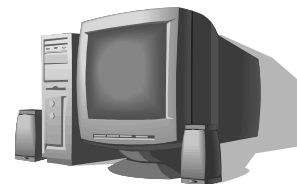
COPPER CLEANER:

- Pour vinegar and salt over copper and rub.

Electronics

Televisions, Computers, and Computer Monitors:

- The average Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) contains between five and eight pounds of lead encased in the glass screen. CRTs (which are part of televisions and computer monitors) are banned from landfills and incinerators to prevent the release of hazardous chemicals like lead into the environment. The heavy metals in computers and televisions have been linked to certain cancers, as well as nervous system, reproductive, and developmental problems.
- Computers also contain metals that can be recycled.
- **Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires** accepts televisions, computers, and computer monitors for recycling at 158 Tyler Street in Pittsfield. They charge \$15 - \$30 per television or monitor, depending on size, and \$15 per computer. Call 442-0061 for hours and fees.
- Televisions and computers may be accepted at some regional comprehensive HHW collections (see page 11).
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations (Fee may apply): Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey, Otis, Sheffield (no fee), Stockbridge and Washington.**



Cell phones:

- Cell phones contain lead, arsenic, cadmium, and other toxins which can be released into the air and water if cell phones are thrown in the trash. These substances can be harmful to human health and the environment.
- The **Wireless Zone** in North Adams and Pittsfield, **Staples** in Pittsfield, and the **Center for Ecological Technology** in Pittsfield accept cell phones for recycling at no charge.
- **Cell phones are accepted for recycling at the following locations: The Town Halls of Alford, Becket, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, and Otis, Tri Town Health Department in Lee, and the Sheffield Transfer Station.**



Items which contain mercury

Mercury is a neurotoxin that is found in some common household items. When items that contain mercury are thrown in the trash, the mercury enters our air and water. It accumulates up the food chain, and fish which contain mercury can be harmful, especially to children and pregnant women. One way to keep mercury out of the environment is to properly dispose of items that contain mercury.

Fluorescent Bulbs:

- Store bulbs in a box or fiber drum so they don't break.
- Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (see page 11).
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations (fee may apply): Egremont, Otis (no fee), Sheffield (no fee), Stockbridge, West Stockbridge (no fee). Also accepted at the Richmond Town Hall (no fee).**

Thermostats:

- Dial thermostats (not digital thermostats) often contain mercury.
- Accepted for recycling at **Berkshire County Plumbing**, Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington and the **Center for Ecological Technology** in Pittsfield.
- Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (see page 11).
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations: Sheffield**



Thermometers:

- Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (see page 11).
- **Accepted at the following locations: Sheffield transfer station, Tri Town Health in Lee.**



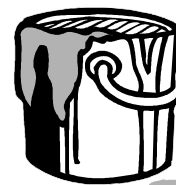
Batteries:

- Rechargeable batteries and button batteries contain mercury, as well as other heavy metals.
- **Staples** in Pittsfield accepts rechargeable batteries for recycling.
- Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (see page 11).

Paints, Stain, and Thinners

Oil Based Paint

- Oil based paint is a hazardous material. Choose latex paint instead of oil based paint whenever possible. If you do purchase oil based paint, choose the smallest possible container in order to avoid leftovers. Try to give leftover paint to friends and relatives.
- Bring oil based paint to a regional paint and oil collection (see page 11).
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations: Great Barrington.**



Latex Paint

- Latex paint is not a hazardous material.
- Give leftover paint to friends or relatives.
- Leave the lid off and let the paint dry to a completely solid state before putting it in the trash. Kitty litter or sand will speed the process.

Household Cleaners

- Many household cleaners contain flammable or toxic ingredients, and other ingredients that are harmful to the environment, such as phosphates and chlorine.
- Signal words on product labels tell you how toxic a product is. Products labeled "Danger" or "Poison" are the most toxic. Those labeled "Warning" or "Caution" are of medium toxicity. Products that don't have any signal words on the label are not considered hazardous by the federal government. They may still contain hazardous chemical ingredients, but the amounts are too small to be considered of concern.
- Less toxic and environmentally friendly household cleaners are available. Choose products **without** the signal words "Danger", "Poison", "Warning" or "Caution." Look for products that do not contain phosphates or chlorine. Products labeled "Safe for Septic" are also less toxic.
- You can make your own non-toxic cleaning products from baking soda and vinegar. Call CET at 1-800-238-1221 for more information on non-toxic cleaning product recipes.
- Bring any products that are flammable or toxic to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (see page 11). Check the label of the product for the words "flammable", "poison", or "danger."